

CLAIMS:

1. A method for processing an image for storage or transmission, comprising:
 - 5 dividing an image in the form of image data into three or more image data subsets; and sequentially outputting said image data subsets as fields in or as a television signal.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, including receiving or capturing said image.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, including forming said subsets so as to be interlaceable.
- 15 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, including dividing a plurality of images into respective sets of three or more image data subsets, and sequentially outputting said sets of image data subsets as fields in a television signal.
- 20 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, including forming each of said sets of image data subsets so as to be interlaceable.
- 25 6. A method as claimed in claim 1, including outputting said image data subsets as adjacent fields in an otherwise conventional television signal.
- 30 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, including outputting said image data subsets either as odd fields or as even fields in said television signal.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1, including transmitting the television signal for remote storage or display.
- 35 9. A method for processing images for storage or transmission, comprising:

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forwarding one or more images as image data to a computer system;

forwarding to said computer system command data for prompting said system to divide the image data

5 corresponding to each of said images into three or more image data subsets; and

receiving from said computer system output comprising said image data subsets.

10 10. An apparatus for processing images for storage or transmission, comprising:

a data input for receiving or capturing an image as image data;

15 a processor for dividing said image data into three or more image data subsets; and

an output for outputting said image data subsets in or as a television signal.

11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, including an image capture mechanism for capturing said image.

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said apparatus is or comprises a camera.

25 13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said processor is operable to form said subsets so as to be interlaceable.

14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said processor is operable to divide a plurality of images into respective sets of three or more image data subsets, and said output is operable to sequentially output said sets of image data subsets as fields in or as a television signal.

35 15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said processor is operable to form each of said sets of image

data subsets so as to be interlaceable.

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, including a display for displaying said image, said image data subsets 5 or both said image and said image data subsets.

17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the processor is operable to divide said image data into an even number of image data subsets.

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18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the apparatus is operable to transmit said image data subsets for remote display.

15 19. A video camera, comprising:

an imaging subsystem for capturing one or more images as image data;

20 a processor for dividing the image data corresponding to each of said images into at least three image data subsets; and

an output subsystem operable to output said image data subsets in or as a television signal.

25 20. A camera as claimed in claim 19, wherein the processor is operable to divide the image data corresponding to each of said images so as to be interlaceable.

30 21. A camera as claimed in claim 19, wherein the output subsystem is operable to output the image data subsets in or as a television signal in standard NTSC, PAL or SECAM format.

35 22. A method for inserting at least one image in the form of image data into a television signal, comprising:
dividing said image into a set of image data subsets; and

inserting said set into said television signal with each subset corresponding to a respective field of said television signal and with said set preceded or followed in said television signal by a conventional image
5 frame.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said image is one of a plurality of images each in the form of image data and the method includes:

10 dividing the image data corresponding to each of said images into a respective set of image data subsets; and

15 inserting said sets periodically into said television signal with each subset corresponding to a respective field of said television signal and with each of said sets preceded or followed in said television signal by a conventional image frame.

24. A method as claimed in claim 23, whereby said sets
20 are separated from one another by an equal number of frames.

25. A method of decoding a television signal, the method comprising:

25 extracting first image data from the odd image fields of the television signal; and

extracting second image data from the even image fields of the television signal;

30 wherein one of said first image data and second image data comprises a first set of images that are sequentially displayable as a motion video and the other of said first image data and second image data comprises a second set of images that are assemblable into a further image.

35 26. A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said second set of images are assemblable into a plurality of further

images.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said plurality of further images are sequentially displayable
5 as a further motion video.

28. A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein said further motion video comprises a manipulated version of said motion video derived from said first set of images.

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29. A method for processing an image for storage or transmission, comprising:

dividing an image in the form of image data into a plurality of image data subsets; and

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sequentially outputting said image data subsets as fields in or as a television signal;

wherein said subsets are both reassemblable by interlacing according to a conventional television standard to form a first image, and otherwise

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reassemblable to form a second image.